by the party, imports to the extent of Rs. 25.04 crore approximately have taken place under these licences.

Investigations in the matter are continuing.

**Proposal for setting up of a joint venture by Taj Group of Companies**

6749. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Taj Group of Companies in collaboration with the Magnum International and a multinational company has applied for setting up of a Joint venture to manufacture furniture with large export obligation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken on their proposals;

(c) whether any other firm has also applied to enter the areas reserved for small scale industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was not approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Entry of Multinationals into India**

6750. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed entry of Multinationals will commercially benefit India;

(b) if so, to what percentage; and

(c) if not, whether Government will retrace its steps back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The entry of multinationals is expected to bring attendant advantages of technology transfers, marketing expertise, introduction of modern managerial techniques and new possibilities for promotion of exports. The entry of foreign investments which is in the interests of the country's industrial develoment would, therefore, be welcome. It is not as yet possible, however; to quantity the commercial benefit flowing from the entry of multinationals.

(c) Does not arise.

**रेज़िन के आयात का कारण इसके मूल्यों में गिरावट**

6751. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या **वाणिज्य मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीन, ब्राजील और इण्डोनेशिया से रेज़िन के आयात के कारण देश में रेज़िन के दाम ढाई रुपये प्रति किलो गिर गये हैं, जिसके परिणाम स्वरूप ईंधन की लकड़ी (फ्यूल-वुड) तथा स्टीम कोल पर आधारित स्वदेशी उद्योग बन्द होने के कगार पर हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार आयातित रेज़िन पर 60 प्रतिशत आयात-शुल्क लगाने तथा रेज़िन-आधारित उद्योगों पर केन्द्रीय उत्पाद-शुल्क न लगाने पर विचार करेगी, ताकि आयातित रेज़िन को देश में उत्पादित रेज़िन के बिक्री मूल्य से कम मूल्य पर न बेचा जाए और स्वदेशी उद्योग रुग्ण होने से उबर सकें ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह निर्णय कब तक ले लिया जायेगा ; और